

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed:

1. (Original) A package adapted to contain a hard copy consumable, the package comprising a protection element, the element being connected to the package and having a surface adapted to be removably connected to a portion of the consumable, such that the element is arranged to be removed from the portion of the consumable by the action of removing the consumable from the package.
2. (Original) A package according to claim 1, wherein the element is arranged to protect one or more features associated with the consumable whilst it is connected to the consumable.
3. (Original) A package according to claim 2, wherein the protection element is adapted to be removably bonded to one or more surfaces of the consumable.
4. (Original) A package according to claim 2, wherein the protection element is adapted to be removably retained against or adjacent to a surface of the consumable by a mechanical fastener.
5. (Original) A package according to claim 4, wherein the mechanical fastener is a clip or a frangible coupling.
6. (Currently Amended) A package according to claim 3 ~~or claim 4~~, wherein the connector is an integral part of the package.
7. (Currently Amended) A package according to claim 3 ~~or claim 4~~, wherein the connector is not an integral part of the package.
8. (Original) A package according to claim 7, wherein the connector is bonded to the package.

9. (Original) A package according to claim 7, wherein the connector is connected to the package by a mechanical fastener.

10. (Currently Amended) A package according to claim 3 ~~or claim 4~~, wherein the consumable is a printhead or cartridge for use in an inkjet printer.

11. (Original) A package according to claim 10, wherein the connector is adapted to substantially cover or protect a nozzle plate associated with the printhead or cartridge.

12. (Original) A package according to claim 11, wherein the connector is a tape.

13. (Original) A package according to claim 12, wherein the tape made from a plastic material or rubber material such as a PVC or PET based material.

14. (Original) A hard copy consumable kit comprising a hard copy consumable a housing arranged to store the consumable, and a protective tape bonded at one end to the housing and at another end to a surface of the consumable, the tape being arranged to be removed from the a surface of the consumable by the action of removing the consumable from the package.

15. (Original) A method of packaging a hard copy consumable, comprising the steps of:

locating the consumable adjacent packaging material;

connecting the consumable to the packaging material with a connector, the connecting step having a sub-step of removably connecting a first portion of the connector to a portion of the consumable, such that the connector is arranged to be removed from the portion of the consumable by the action of removing the consumable from the packaging.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the step of connecting the connector to the surface of the consumable has the effect of protecting part of the consumable.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the step of connecting the first portion of the connector to the surface of the consumable.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of bonding or otherwise fixing a second portion of the connector to the package.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the connecting step is carried out before the locating step.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 15, Wherein the consumable is a printhead or cartridge and the sub-step of removably connecting a first portion of the connector to a portion of the consumable is arranged to substantially cover or protect a nozzle plate associated with the printhead or cartridge.

21. (Original) A method of making a package adapted to package a hard copy consumable, comprising the steps of:

creating a connector, the connector being connected to, or forming part of the package and being adapted to be removably connected to a portion of the consumable, such that when the connector is connected to the consumable, it protects at least a portion of the consumable, and when the consumable is removed from the packaging, the connector is adapted to be removed from the portion of the consumable.

22. (Original) A package adapted to contain for a retail item, the package comprising a protection element, the element being connected to the package and having a surface adapted to be removably connected to a portion of the item, such that the element is arranged to be removed from the portion of the item by the action of removing the item from the package.